programme has been launched to make the people aware about the ill-effects of drug abuse. Programmes are also being organised through Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in various Schools and Colleges/Universities for promoting drug free life amongst the student community. In addition, under the Scheme of Prohibition and Drug Abuse Prevention, this Ministry is providing assistance to NGOs to the extent of 90 per cent of the total approved expenditure for running of Awareness, Counselling and Assistance Centres and De-addiction-cum-Rehabilitation Centres to provide counselling, treatment and after-care services to the addicts. At present there are about 350 such centres functioning in different parts of the country.

Adopted Children

1928. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries where adopted children have been sent during the current year; and

(b) the number of such adopted children during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU: (a) and (b) The information pertaining to the names of the countries as well as the number of adopted children sent to these countries on inter-country adoption is maintained on a calandar year basis. Information in respect of the calandar year 1994 is as under:—

Name of the country	Number of children sent on adoption
U.S.A.	291
Italy	161
Sweden	121
France	97
Belgium	84
Switzerland	76
Denmark	68
Germany	58
Netherlands	56
Norway	39
Australia	21
Austria	20
Spain	9
Canada	8
Ireland	5
United Kingdom	4
Finland	3
Singapore	4
United Arab Emirates	2
Iceland	1
TOTAL :	1128

Punjab Wakf Board

1929. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFzAL: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Punjab Wakf Board continues to be under supersession;

(b) if so, since when;

(c) what are the reasons for not allowing constitution of the Board for such a long period;

(d) what are the total number of Wakf Boards in the country; and

(e) how many of them are under supersession and since when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Punjab Wakf Board (PWB) has been continued supersession since 11th November, 1981.

(c) Initial supersession of the Punjab Wakf Board was ordered by the Punjab Government in 1965 on grounds of allegations of financial and administrative irregularities committed by the members and Chairperson of the then PWB. After the PWB became an inter-State body corporate consequent upon the reorganisation of States, the Central Government had again to supersede the PWB for identical reasons in 1981. Since the experience with the multi-Member boad in the context of PWB has not been a happy one, it has been considered necessary to continue the supersession.

(d) Twenty-four.

(e) The information from the State Govts./UT Administrations is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Percentage of blind persons in India

1930. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of blind persons in India out of the total population of the blind persons in the world;

(b) whether this percentage has virtually remained the same during the last thirty years;

(c) what measures are being taken by Government to introduce the technique of fixing intra-occular lenses' after the removal of cataract to reduce the number of persons becoming blind; and

(d) what schemes/programmes are in hand to prevent blindness among children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU: (a) It is estimated that 20 per cent of blind persons of the world are in India.

(b) No data is available in this regard.

(c) Intraoccular bus implants have been introduced under National Programme for control of Blindness since 1994.

(d) To prevent blindness among children the schemes implemented are:—

a) Vitamin A prophylaxis programme under MCH programme;

b) Provision of antibiotics in trachoma and other infections;

c) Provision of spectacles to children with refractive errors.

Scheme for development of Wakf properties

1931. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFAL: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scheme for development of Wakf properties has been formulated by the Government;

(b) if so, which is the operational authority under the scheme;

(c) what is the position of funds under this scheme at present; and

(d) whether Government propose to lay on the Table of the House State-wise statement on the Wakf properties developed under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The scheme is implemented through the Central Wakf Council.

(c) A budget provision of Rs. 1.20 was made for the year 1994-95. Sanction for the entire amount has been issued by the Central Government. A budget provision of Rs. 1.20 crores has also been proposed for the year 1995-96.

(d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.